

# Fans Joyful Over News That Johnson Has Decided to Come Back to the Fold

## JOHNSON WILL NOT PITCH FIRST GAME IF HE IS TOO TIRED

McAleer Says It Is Probable "Dolly" Gray Will Open ing Clash.

## SLAB STAR NEEDS TWO DAYS' REST

Long Trip From Kansas Would Leave Him Chance to "Fall Down."

By "SENATOR."

It is not likely Walter Johnson will twirl the opening game against the Boston Red Sox tomorrow afternoon, at National Park. Manager McAleer has changed his mind and stated late this afternoon that for Johnson's own good, he would hardly be permitted to do so, and that "Dolly" Gray will start, as originally planned.

The long ride will certainly have a tiring effect upon the pitcher, and the chances are that he will not be in the best condition to step into the box and pitch a game that would do him credit, and considering the position in which he is placed at present, McAleer believes it would be unfair to allow Walter to take the big risk of falling down.

Moreover, it is likely the big Kansan has not had a ball in his hands since he left Atlanta, and his arm is bound to have suffered by the long layoff. Reports from Coffeyville are to the effect that Johnson spent most of his time there in improving his farm, and such work can hardly be called conducive to keeping the big fellow in shape.

### Needs Day or Two.

McAleer is of the opinion that it will be a day or two before Johnson will be in the proper condition to pitch. If he should start the game tomorrow he would be working under a nervous strain, and this disadvantage would be overcome after a few days' rest, when the excitement of the opening game and of his return has subsided.

Johnson is scheduled to arrive here at noon tomorrow, and if his trip is on time he would hardly have more than three hours to rest before stepping into the box. Having considered all these points, McAleer has practically decided to go with Dolly Gray, who is in the best of shape.

According to Manager McAleer, his big twirler will sign a contract calling for \$5,000, the club refusing to budge one inch in the matter.

### Just for One Year.

Johnson says he will sign a contract for one year, thus indicating that when next season rolls around there will be another battle between him and President Noyes. The outcome then is problematical, but McAleer says that never will Johnson be allowed to "hold up" the club for more than a reasonable salary.

"I'm glad to learn that Walter is coming back," says McAleer today. "I thought all along that he would think better of his homeward trip, and would let me know that he was reconciled before the season was under way. I informed him that, if out of the fold at the start of the season, he stood a fine chance of being fined heavily by the National Commission, and I guess that brought the change of heart. Johnny King had to pay \$50 for refusing to sign up with the Cubs, and Johnson would almost surely have been obliged to pay a large sum for his stubbornness."

"However, although Johnson has been stubborn and has caused me considerable trouble on the eve of the campaign, I am friendly to him. He is but a big boy who has been led astray by some wise guy who thought he knew a whole lot about the game. I'd like very much to find out who his adviser is. If he is on my team now his stay will end abruptly, take it from me."

### Surprised By Fans.

"The most surprising thing of all to me is the attitude of the Washington fans. Down at Atlanta I had an idea that the hammers would be out for me good and plenty. I could imagine the fans crying, 'Oh, you, McAleer, where's Walter Johnson?' Then, when we arrived at the Union station, and I received a warm welcome that was perfectly friendly, I didn't know what to make of it. It took me off my feet, really."

"I thought that the fans would be with Johnson to the last man in this controversy. However, I find that the fans here are willing to give the club a square deal, and it makes me feel good, too. It's a pleasure to be a manager in a city where the fans are so much on the level. I know enough about the other kind."

With Johnson in line again the fans of the Capital are once more happy, and will flock into the park tomorrow. At Atlanta Johnson was in the best shape of all the pitchers, and the short layoff of less than a week, even though he has made two long train rides, ought not to cause the big fellow to lose his form. Only one day at Atlanta did Johnson show any signs of wildness, and, then, too, but for one inning.

### No Increase In Salary.

The return of Walter Johnson to the Nationals does not mean that he will receive any increase in salary. Manager McAleer says he will sign this season for \$5,000, but Johnson declares it will be a one-year contract. He evidently means to make another fight next season, following the example of Ty Cobb. The great Tiger outfielder held out for a stiff raise and then signed up for one season, promising to quit the game then unless he was given his demands. The Detroit club capitulated at the close of that season after looking at the record set by the Georgia peach.

Walter Johnson has been guided much by the example of Ty Cobb, and may sign up this year with the understanding that he will not play next year unless given a much higher salary for a term of years. Johnson intimated at Atlanta that he was going to pitch the best games of his career this season, and this indicates his peculiar position. He is returning now to play ball for one year. Next year President Noyes and Jimmy McAleer may find themselves in the same boat as regards the Coffeyville wonder.

## Lucky Buyer and First Tickets Sold



D. S. VAN BUSKIRK, Who Had Choice of Seats in New Grandstand At Ball Park.

## BOB THAYER'S SPORTING GOSSIP

"EVERY KNOCK IS A BOOST."

### Pay of ball players.

One of the beneficial effects of the hold out of Walter Johnson will be that during the controversy enough has been brought out to convince a reasonable fan that all the talk about the fabulous salaries of ball players has no real foundation in fact.

The ordinary fan likes to talk learnedly about the \$10,000 and \$15,000 salaries that adorn different diamonds, but in reality the players whose pay reaches five figures can be counted on the fingers of one hand, even if the counter should have been unfortunate enough to have lost one, or even two, of his digits.

Ty Cobb, considered by many experts the greatest ball player that ever drew on a glove, receives \$9,000 for his accomplishments with the Detroit club, and from this dazzling height one can go right down the line until he finds prominent players on every team in the major leagues drawing \$2,500 and thanking their lucky stars that they are able to hold that mark in the blank spaces on the official contracts.

In baseball war times it is true that competition for good men was so intense that a star could almost name his own price, but as soon as peace was declared and the two big leagues reached an understanding the slashing started and continued until the figures were down to the normal mark.

While there is many a ball player who will try to give the impression that his yearly income compares favorably with that of bank officials and railroad magnates the willingness with which the national star jumped at the opportunity to sign papers offered by Promoter Fletcher last fall, will show that there are few who are so independent that they are satisfied.

Conversation money predominates, as a rule, after you get above \$4,000.

### Charley Jones in line-up.

One of the men the St. Paul club, of the American Association, will depend upon this year is Charley Jones, the fleet outfielder who played here under Cantillon and Stahl.

Jones is one of the fastest men on the whole sphere of baseball. Great thrower and an excellent fielder. Were his batting eyes a bit less dim he would be a welcome addition to the outfield of any major league club.

### Anastosts active.

Captain Rankin Middleton, of the Anastosts Boat Club, is already planning for the coming season for the oarsmen who boat from the foot of New Hampshire avenue.

Lawrence Green and Richard Daniels are said to be the captain's selections.

## THINGS A MOTHER OUGHT TO KNOW



Mothers whose children are weak and run-down, who do not gain flesh and strength, who lack the rosy cheeks and bright eyes of healthy childhood, should remember that the safest tonic and body builder to give them is Father Johnson's Medicine because it is a pure and wholesome free from alcohol or dangerous drugs. Thousands of mothers give it to their children whenever they become weakened or run-down.

## BOXES SOLD OUT FOR FIRST GAME IN HALF AN HOUR

Ardent Fans Line Up for Tickets for Opening Game.

## WORKMEN ARE BUSY CLEANING DIAMOND

First Ticket to New Park Secured by D. S. Van Buskirk.

All records for advance sale of baseball tickets in Washington went by the boards this morning when, within half an hour after the first box seat had been sold every special reservation for the opening game at National Park tomorrow, had been disposed of.

In the rebuilt plant the box capacity has been more than doubled, and it has been believed that the supply would be large enough to continue the sale until noon tomorrow, but applicants for tickets at Spalding's and White's this morning were sent away unhappy with the announcement that every one of the 754 chair pasteboards had been snatched up by those who want to see the Nationals of 1911 in action on the opening day.

### Buys First Ticket.

As was to be expected there was an especial effort made to get hold of the first ticket ever sold for the new park, and in this D. S. Van Buskirk, of 1318 L street northwest, proved to be the lucky one, and had the advantage of selecting any seat in the house. He finally picked out one that he thinks will be the best in the park and went away smiling.

Mr. Van Buskirk is an attaché of the Interstate Commerce Commission and is a loyal Johnson supporter.

### Work Is Stopped.

"I think Walter has acted right in the whole controversy," said holder of coupon No. 1, "and from what I have already heard from the fans I have talked with this morning, the owners will find that the presence of the fans' idol in the box tomorrow will mean the biggest sort of a boost in the attendance."

"I am not surprised that all of the reserved tickets have been snatched up, but I got mine, boys, I got mine," he continued, as he went on his way, with the prized pasteboard in the inside pocket of his inside coat.

All of the construction work for the opening game was stopped today, and a corps of laborers were busy from 8 o'clock removing everything from the playing field and stands and storing it behind the left field pavilion, where it will remain until the work of completing the stands is resumed.

### Seating Capacity.

After a consultation with the directors last night Secretary Fowler announced that the stands thus far completed will hold about 15,000 people, which is about 4,000 more than it was possible to seat in the structures destroyed by the fire three weeks ago.

It was also decided that until the park is completed no automobiles or carriages will be admitted to the grounds, so it will be necessary for motorists to bank their cars on Seventh street and on Florida avenue.

The sale of tickets at the park will be called two hours later.

## Speaker, Sans Tonsils, To Appear In Opener

BOSTON, April 11.—Tris Speaker, the Red Sox outfielder, minus his tonsils, prepared to start for Washington tonight, where he will play in the opening game of the season tomorrow. Speaker left the hospital yesterday, where the operation was performed.

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## ALL IS READY FOR OPENING BATTLE

Workmen Are Putting Finishing Touches on the Park. Red Sox Arrive Tonight, and the Nationals Are All on Hand Except Johnson.

By "SENATOR."

All is in readiness for the opening of the baseball season in Washington. Workmen are putting the finishing touches upon the park, and the box seat tickets are going like hot cakes.

Walter Johnson, the incomparable finger, is on his way East, and the fans are busy scraping together the necessary coin to be out to the gala day. The weather sharp, to be the most popular man in town, has only to give us a clear day. The fans will do the rest. King Baseball is about to be crowned.

The Nationals are in excellent condition for the opening of the campaign. Not a man of them is lame or sick, or in any way incapacitated. At their final workout today at Georgetown Field they displayed all the ginger and pepper noted at Atlanta, and from the veteran Herman Schaefer down to Charlie Conway, the Youngstown heavyweight outfielder, all are eager for the leash to be unslipped.

### McAleer Up Early.

Manager McAleer was up early today and out with his boys. He insisted that they put plenty of snap and life into their final work, and the boys responded in fine shape. Nothing but batting and fielding practice was indulged in, but there was plenty of that. Every man was sent against the best pitching the team possesses, and the way Bob Groom and Dolly Gray smoked 'em over was a caution. No better hurling will they meet in all the season, and it was the best of practice.

Bill Cunningham, the Schenectady boy, is about down to playing weight, and says that in another week he will be tipping the beam at 172, his right weight. Manager McAleer kept him a little lighter than the rest today, driving hard grounders in his direction in order to make him travel with all his speed. At the conclusion of the workout McAleer said, "I guess Bill is all right now. That rubber shirt and plenty of work in that hot weather down at Atlanta fixed him up. The boy is ready, and he was the only one of whom I had any doubt."

Cunningham has taken off his rubber shirt now, and is ready to harden up. He says the shirt forced him down from 152 pounds to 172, and that he is still a little weak from it. "In a week," says Bill, "I ought to be stronger, and then I'll be at my best. I want to make good this season, my first real season with the team, and shall do my best to do it around among the 300 boys. There's nothing like being a 300 sticker to hold your job in the big show."

### Conroy and Street Here.

"Wild" Conroy and Gabby Street were on hand today. They were allowed to visit their homes by Jimmy McAleer, and arrived in town yesterday too late to join in the practice. "I thought the practice was to be at 3 o'clock," explained Conroy, "and that's how I didn't get into it. We young fellows, you know, have to keep on our toes or the old fellows will beat us out for the places with the team."

Conroy is in excellent shape for the start of the season, but will hardly be used unless there is a hole to fill in the infield. Jimmy McAleer will not use him in the outfield this season unless forced to do so by injuries to other men. Schaefer is the substitute outfielder, and Conroy will hurl them around the inner square.

### Rejoicing Over Johnson.

There was great joy among the players today on learning that Johnson will be on hand for the opening game. "I'm glad Walter is coming back," says Dolly. "Now he's beginning to show some sense. I thought he'd think better of it after getting home. Tennessee flyer and 'roomie' of Johnson, is the happiest man in the squad. He was around today all smiles, and John Henry asked him several times what he was smiling

## JOHNSON ON TRAIN DECLARES FIGURE IS SEVEN THOUSAND

Not Sure He'll Accept, He Says, Arriving at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, April 11.—Walter Johnson, the Washington pitcher, was in St. Louis this morning.

He got in at 7 o'clock from Coffeyville, Kan., and he is on his way to Washington.

Whether Johnson will continue to hold out all depends, he said, while munching a sandwich at the Union Station, that he received a telegram from McAleer last night offering him \$7,000 a year provided he would sign a three-year contract. "This is \$500 better a year than McAleer's former offer, and it has tacked on to it that rather clinging clause, 'Three years, at \$7,000 per year.'"

Not Sure He'll Accept.

The great American League pitcher said he did not know whether he would accept the compromise offer. He maintains that he is worth \$7,500 a year. He is not alone in this opinion, either. He says everyone in Coffeyville thinks he is worth at least that. "When I went down to the Market square, in Coffeyville, yesterday," Johnson said, "I met a Coffeyville fan, who told me that if Ty Cobb is worth \$2,000 a year in right field, I am certainly worth \$7,500 in the pivotal position of the game."

Thinks Coffeyville Right.

"I think the Coffeyville fan was right, even if Coffeyville is a bush league town."

Johnson said today that McAleer had wired emphatically that he would neither sell nor trade him under any circumstances. This means that if he and McAleer do not come to terms, it is back to the tail and uncut underbrush for W. Johnson. Johnson departed at 9 o'clock, on his way East.

## Coaching Annapolis.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., April 11.—Catcher Schell, of the New York Nationals, has arrived in Annapolis, and will spend a few days coaching the Naval Academy baseball squad. He will pay particular attention to the pitchers, and also give the midshipmen some points in batting.

## RHEUMATISM



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